under the parallel marketing system and to take appropriate action against persons who have been found indulging in fraudulent and unfair trade practices. Public have also been suitably advised and warned through press released that they must find out the antecedents, genuineness and capabilities of concerned parallel marketeers before entering into any transaction with them. MRTP Commission also takes action against persons/firms/compaines indulging in unfair trade practices.

**LPG Agencies in Tamil Nadu**

7813. SHRI RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PG agencies in Tamil Nadu as on 31st March, 1994;

(b) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to increase the number of LPG agencies in that state by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) As on 1.1.1994, there were 314 LPG distributorships in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Marketing Plan beyond 1993-94 has not been finalised. Proposals for setting up of 50 LPG distributorships in Tamil Nadu have been included in the current LPG Marketing Plan. Subject to economic viability and product availability, locations having population of 20,000 and above as per 1991 Census are considered for setting up of LPG distributorship.

**Agreement With Foreign Countries For Import of Oil**

7814. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries and the agreements which were signed with them for the import of oil during the last year;

(b) the quantity of oil to be imported from each country under the agreement and the respective rates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) During 1993-94 Indian Oil Corporation contracted for imports of about 17.50 MMT of crude oil under term contracts from national Oil Companies of Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Iran, Malaysia, Qatar, Yemen and Russia at official selling prices declared by the individual country which are market related.

**Proposal For A National Oil Exploration Plan**

7815. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a National Oil Exploration Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Govt. intends to intensify exploration efforts for which an enhanced exploration strategy is being formulated. Apart from the normal exploration work this would encompass a national seismic programme; exploration in deep waters and overseas exploration ventures.